

SELFIDGE FIELD, BUILDING NO. 104  
(Automotive Maintenance Shop)  
(Auto Hobby Shop)  
George Ave. between Maple and Walnut Sts.  
Mt. Clemens vicinity  
Macomb County  
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-Y

HAER  
MICH  
50-ATCLEY  
Y-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
Great Lakes Systems Office  
Department of the Interior  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, NE 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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SELFRIDGE FIELD HAER No. MI-116-Y  
BUILDING #104( AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE SHOP)  
(Auto Hobby Shop)

Location: South side of George Avenue between Randall and Walnut Streets  
Selfridge Air National Guard Base , Mt. Clemens vicinity, Macomb  
County, Michigan

U.S.G.S. Mount Clemens East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 17.350620.4719060

Significance: This functional building is representative of the permanent  
masonry support structures erected as Selfridge expanded rapidly  
to meet its defense mission during the Cold War period.

Description: This building is a rectangular plan, 150 foot 1 inch by 44 foot,  
single story, flat-roofed, concrete block structure. It rests on a  
concrete slab foundation and is shielded by a built up roof that is  
pierced by large roof vents and rises above a wood fascia. Nine  
of the eleven bays of the principal (south) elevation are created by  
uniform vehicular entry voids enframing steel overhead doors,  
while the other two bays at the southwest corner of the structure  
are formed by a steel sash window and corner pedestrian entry  
door. A single bay, 20 foot 5 inch wide L-plan, shed roofed  
dependency, reduced in height extends westward from the main  
vehicular service bays of the building. This portion houses 12  
foot 6 inch wide office and lavatory and a 10 foot 6 inch wide  
boiler room, forming the west elevation, which presents a single  
horizontal lighted steel frame window. This bay's built up roof is  
broken by a tall, standard bond brick incinerator smokestack.  
Nine of the eleven bays of the north elevation are comprised of  
symmetrically positioned 12 lighted steel frame windows, while  
the remaining northwest corner bays are created by pedestrian  
entry doors in the vehicular service portion of the building and the  
office/boiler room dependency. The east elevation's two bays are  
defined by a central steel frame window and a steel pedestrian  
entry door at the northeast corner.

The interior of this building is divided into nine open vehicular  
service bays with a 19 foot 9 inch wide rank of rooms under the  
shed roof in the west end of the building containing an office in  
the southwest corner and a toilet, boiler room and fuel room,  
while a 13 foot 8 inch paint shop occupied the easternmost bay  
separated by a masonry internal wall from the rest of the work  
area. The interior plan survives intact today, although the eastern

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paint shop now serves as a vehicular maintenance bay.

History: This building was constructed in 1953 as the Automotive Maintenance Shop by designs provided to the Detroit District, Corps of Engineers, by Schley and Ward, Architects and Engineers from Detroit. It was built as a vehicular general maintenance facility, a function it continues to serve in a recreational sense today.

Sources: Anonymous, Brief History of Selfridge Air Force Base, 1917-1960, unpublished ms., Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 1960.

\_\_\_\_\_, Guide and Directory, Selfridge Air Force Base. Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan, 1960.

Nigro, Louis, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, An Unofficial History, unpublished ms., Public Information Office, Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan, 1977.

copy of construction drawing, dated July 7, 1952, Schley and Ward Architects, Detroit, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. PLANS, ELEVATIONS AND DETAILS, SECTION 2A, SHEET 2 OF 8, SF5\321.

Interview, Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995

Interview, Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management, October 12, 1995

Historian: William E. Rutter  
Midwest Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
May, 1996